

This Request is in response to the Final Office Action mailed July 19, 2001. Applicants submit with this Request, amendments in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121 and remarks as set forth below:

In the claims:

Substitute the pending claims with the following:

1. (Twice Amended) A stored energy tracking system for a vehicle in a shared vehicle system wherein a central computer system allocates vehicles to users in response to user-input information regarding the user's intended trip, the vehicle having a stored energy source defining a stored amount of energy at any given time, the system comprising:
 - a sensor installed in the vehicle for sensing the stored amount of energy of the vehicle;
 - a vehicle subsystem including a wireless communication unit installed in the vehicle and operatively coupled to the sensor for transmitting stored amount of energy information corresponding to a stored amount of energy sensed by the sensor;
 - a central station including a computer system coupled in wireless communication with said wireless communication unit for receiving and processing stored amount of energy information and vehicle location information, transmitted by said wireless communication unit, for vehicle allocation by the central computer in a vehicle sharing system.
11. (Twice Amended) A vehicle sharing system operable with at least one port at which one or more vehicles from a fleet of vehicles may be shared among a plurality of users, each vehicle having a stored energy source defining a stored amount of energy at any given time, the system comprising:
 - a sensor associated with and installed on each vehicle for sensing the stored amount of energy of the associated vehicle;
 - a vehicle subsystem including a wireless communication unit associated with and installed on each vehicle and operatively coupled to the sensor on the associated vehicle for transmitting stored amount of energy information corresponding to a stored

amount of energy sensed by the sensor;

a central station coupled in wireless communication with said wireless communication units, including a tracking system that provides vehicle location information corresponding to the location of each vehicle and a computer system for receiving stored amount of energy information transmitted by said wireless communication unit and programmed to process stored amount of energy information and vehicle location information to select and allocate vehicles to users based on stored amount of energy information, vehicle location information, and user-input information regarding the user's intended trip.

19. (Twice Amended) A stored energy tracking method for a vehicle in a vehicle sharing system, in which vehicles are allocated to users in response to user-input information regarding the user's intended trip, the vehicle having a stored energy source defining the stored amount of energy at any given time, the method comprising:

sensing the stored amount of energy of the vehicle with a sensor installed in the vehicle;

transmitting stored amount of energy information corresponding to stored amount of energy sensed by the sensor with a wireless communication unit installed in the vehicle;

receiving and processing stored amount of energy information and vehicle location information transmitted by said wireless communication unit at a central station for use in allocating vehicles by a central computer in a vehicle sharing system.